

Tuesdays with Tammy Nevada Libraries Forum

from

Nevada State Library, Archives and Public Records

10 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday

October 27, 2020

Attending: Tammy Westergard, Sulin Jones, Norma Fowler, NSLAPR; Kim Diehm, Boulder City; Marcie Smedley, Henderson; Jessica Anderson, Humboldt County; Courtney Oberhansli, Mineral County; Forrest Lewis, North Las Vegas; Joan Dalusung, Washoe County; Cindy Wood, UNR LRC/WCSD Liaison; Shelly Nee, Pershing County School District; Cyndi O, NV CoOp; Crystal Van Dee, Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas; Eric Walsh, GBC; Kathy Ray, UNR; Lara Katrina Schott, Sierra Nevada University; Maggie Farrell, UNLV



WHAT PEOPLE ARE THINKING RIGHT NOW



Strengths:

- Library staff are strong, creative and adaptable
- Libraries are providing as many services to their communities as possible given their own local circumstances
- Libraries are reaching students in ways they weren't before



Struggles:

- Difficulty in planning (even for short-term) when so many things are unknown
- Low staffing levels due to staff quarantines and open positions that cannot be filled
- Providing even limited services requires much more staff time and energy than usual
- Knowing that students are struggling with the general weirdness of things



Opportunities

- Working with local government to have library staff help where needed while libraries are closed
- Serving as polling locations raises libraries' visibility



Trends

- Libraries make plans to reopen/add services and have to pull back because of staff quarantines or spikes in local cases
- Open positions that cannot be filled
- Services will be permanently changed- COVID responses will be incorporated into standard operating procedures
- Digital collections are now core collections

Announcements:

- <https://www.nevadaappeal.com/news/obituaries/lionel-leroy-douglass-doug/>
- 33rd Annual Nevada Writers Hall of Fame – The Virtual Version - https://events.unr.edu/event/33rd_annual_nevada_writers_hall_of_fame_-_the_virtual_version
- Mental wellness webinars: <https://nsla.nv.gov/COVID19/10MinuteWellness>
- Youth Services Check-ins: Family Reading Program/Mind in the Making, October 19 – December 14, every other Monday and Thursday, 10 am
- Save the Date: Virtual Summer Reading Workshop: January 13-14, 9:00-12:30

Libraries in the News:

- Voting at Washoe County libraries - <https://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?StationID=3760&DateTime=10%2F26%2F2020+7%3A09%3A18+PM&Term=Washoe+%2Blibrary&PlayClip=TRUE>
- UNR libraries and Washoe County Libraries partnership "A Thousand Miles of Desert and Mountains" - <https://library.unr.edu/1000-miles>
- Crystal Van Dee's presentation on virtual storytelling: <https://bit.ly/nma2020-storytelling>
- Mineral County Library's Halloween video: https://youtu.be/Yv_SC0cACSo

Library Updates:

Eric Walsh, Great Basin College

- The library is really quiet with a small cadre of students using printing and wifi services.
- Small number of students living on campus; some students are taking in-person classes with labs
- Faculty are not on campus; Eric and a colleague will begin alternating half-days on campus
- Library staff communicates with students via email, phone calls, Zoom and BlueJeans
- Library advertises on Canvas and has videos on their website about specific library services and resources.
- College recently went through accreditation, and the library did very well. Accreditation team was impressed with the services provided by such a small staff.

Maggie Farrell, UNLV

- Things are very much the same as GBC. Very low attendance in the main library – around 900 students per day; usually there are 1,000s per day; around 800 students living in dorms; 20% of classes are face to face
- Librarians are engaged online and in some ways have a greater reach into the classrooms
- Three days of early voting in the library went smoothly; none of the anticipated problems occurred; tried to get word out to community via social media that there were no waiting lines but the community tends to not come on campus
- Regarding the community, airport and casino traffic is picking up, and there are Sunday afternoon traffic jams so tourists are still coming – just not as many as in the past.

Lara Katrina Schott, Sierra Nevada University

- Situation is very similar to the other academic libraries/campuses
- Classes alternate between micro-blocks of in-person and online
- Library is not circulating print materials; hope to initiate some form of controlled pickup of material with help from work study students

- Collection development funds are focused on digital resources

Shelly Nee, Pershing County School District

- School is open with few restrictions other than masks; elementary and middle school libraries are closed, but staff take carts of books to the classrooms; getting ready to open to small groups
- Destiny (library management system) is online now so students can place holds online
- High school library is open for 4-5 students in the library at a time
- Named as a finalist for Nevada Teacher of the Year; library has grown into an outstanding STEM center

Kathy Ray, UNR

- Centers built for hands-on learning are much impacted by current restrictions
- Far fewer students on campus; students will not come back after Fall break; will return from holiday break the last week of January with no Spring break
- Open positions cannot be filled
- Kathy salutes everyone with children and those teaching children as she recognizes the challenges they are facing while caught in the middle between meeting children's needs and taking care of other obligations
- NV Writers Hall of Fame, Nov. 12, will be virtual this year; free and open to everyone with musical numbers

Crystal Van Dee, Nevada State Museum, Las Vegas

- Museum is open two days per week; located on campus of Springs Preserve
- Research library is open by appointment only and also provides remote research assistance
- Have lost half of the employees
- Museum educator has connections with Clark County School District and shares lesson plans with teachers
- Crystal did a presentation for the Nevada Museums Association on online storytelling and provided the link for the slide deck (listed above)

Kim Diehm, Boulder City

- Planned to reopen completely on Oct. 19 but some staff had to quarantine due to possible exposure so low staffing precluded reopening; luckily no employees tested positive
- Decision regarding reopening will be revisited in a few weeks
- Have been partially open and have been busy providing computer and copier use, curbside delivery, information desk inside with staff pulling books for browsing

Marcie Smedley, Henderson

- Currently providing virtual services and curbside service
- Planning for limited in-building services and computer access in mid-late November
- Lot of creativity going into programming and trying to meet the community where they are and meet the community's needs
- Trying to figure out to protect the community in same way they protected the library team
- Library team has become very cohesive and is working very well together

Courtney Oberhansli, Mineral County

- Building is open on limited basis for computer use, tutoring and small meetings; people can come in to pick up books but no browsing
- Even with limited numbers, managing those in the library is intensive; many phone calls because of people thinking the library is an early voting site
- Short staffed due to being down one position (out of four) which can't be filled currently and another staff person having a Covid possibility
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- Have two students using VR equipment on alternating weeks (to allow time for the equipment to be quarantined)
- Very difficult trying to plan when cases are currently going up and not knowing what to expect

Jessica Anderson, Humboldt

- Possibility that library may have to close if cases continue to spike
- People can come into the library; need appointment only for computer use; circulation is slowly coming back up; traffic has increased due to early voting across the street
- 73 new library cards were issued during Library Card Signup Month in September
- Schools now have access to Overdrive SORA and promoted it on social media
- Have had some staff who had to quarantine; McDermitt was open for a month then had to close but will reopen soon by appointment only

Forrest Lewis, North Las Vegas

- Library staff are still helping with CARES funds distribution and are working overtime trying to keep up with applications
- Strange dichotomy between people needing housing assistance for rent and the number of new houses being built and sold

Tammy Westergard, State Librarian

- Update on OWIN grant from CARES Act funding - *Supporting and Advancing Nevada's Dislocated Individuals* (Project SANDI) – NSLAPR is a partner agency; must go to BOE in December; 3 year project beginning 1/1/2021.
- Will help get people back to work and keep talent in the health care pipeline
- Will help students who need to complete clinical practicum hours
- Will help demonstrate the efficacy of 3D resources as related to STEM learning and industry credentials
- Will help demonstrate a new model